

Comprehensive Situation Report No. 5
Devils Lake Flood 1995
Division of Emergency Management
and
State Water Commission
Incident No. 95-004

Date: March 17, 1995 Time: 12:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND

ATTENTION: Appropriate State and Local Agencies

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Potential flooding in 1995, based on expected 1432.5 or greater mean sea level (msl) for Devils Lake.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous report.
3. DAMAGE: The water level of Devils Lake is 1431.13 feet msl as of March 17, 1995.
4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous report.

STATE: No change from previous report.

FEDERAL: No change from previous report.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The Salvation Army and Ramsey County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) personnel met for coordination of communication needs.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS:
LOCAL: On March 3, Nelson County was enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program. Property owners in Nelson County can now purchase flood insurance.

The Ramsey County Rural Sewer System is running at capacity. Actions have begun to raise threatened sewage lift stations.

State and local department of transportation and emergency management staff are in the process of assessing county and township road conditions, identifying the potential for additional damage, and reviewing possible mitigation actions.

A consulting engineer gave a preliminary report on the Minnewaukan Sewage Lagoon to city officials. A preliminary report identified the need for a temporary road and rip-rapping. The final study, based on test results, will be available about March 20, 1995.

STATE: The State Water Commission's snow survey, conducted on February 27-28, 1995, showed 2-3 inches of moisture in the snowpack over the Devils Lake Basin.

Training was conducted for property insurance agents on March 2, 1995 in Devils Lake on the National Flood Insurance Program.

FEDERAL: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided a current inventory of sandbags, pumps, and hoses to the ND Division of Emergency Management.

The National Weather Service issued the first numerical spring snowmelt flood outlook. According to the outlook, the June level of Devils Lake will reach 1432 with current snow cover, and 1432.5 with current snow cover, plus normal precipitation.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region VIII officials are reviewing the possibility of moving Benson, Nelson, and Ramsey Counties from the emergency phase to the regular phase of the National Flood Insurance Program. Such action would increase the limits on available coverages available to policy holders.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: None at this time.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: A public meeting was held at the State Capitol on March 9, 1995. The meeting was held to provide an update on actions taken and to respond to questions regarding the Devils Lake situation. About 40 officials and citizens from Ramsey and Benson counties participated. State officials participating were the Governor, Department of Transportation Director, National Guard Adjutant General, ND Division of Emergency Management Director, State Engineer, Game and Fish Department Commissioner, and the State Health Officer.

SIGNED:

Douglas C. Friez, Director
ND Division of Emergency Management
328-3300

David Sprynczynatyk, Secretary
State Water Commission
328-2750